

Testimony of Ronald Smith

I must begin by letting this committee know that I personally have nothing to gain or lose by this committee's vote because I have already lost the most important relationships of my life with my children. I am here because this travesty must not be experienced by any other non custodial parent.

This issue will at some time affect each and every person in this room either personally or by a family member who will long for a relationship with their children and be denied because you or they will have been stereotypically labeled despite how close the personality may be to the stereotype.

What I have lost will never be regained. There is absolutely no monetary value that would suffice the damage done to my sons and myself because it was assumed that I was not important.

God in his infinite wisdom, created us all so that it would take a man and a woman to create a child. But the courts in its infinite wisdom has taken on the role of deciding that God must not have known what he was doing. If a child only needed one parent, it would only take one to create that child.

Children fall prey to all types of outside influences minus the balance and direction of both parents. I am hurt because I don't have my children's school pictures nor was I informed of the major events in their lives on a timely basis and this is because the courts would not recognize me as a primary relationship to my children.

I urge this panel to support HB5267 because a parent is a terrible thing to waste.